

Foyles, Edward J.

1930

(Museum of Natural History
University of Rochester)

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

December 11, 1930.

Dr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Wood,

Will you be so kind as to tell me what
you think is the best way of exhibiting coins in
museum cases. The material which we wish to exhibit
consists of many coins of the Sicilian group dating
back to 500 B. C.

With appreciation for your advice, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "Edward J. Foyles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Edward J. Foyles, Director.

EJF:L

December 15, 1930

Edward J. Foyles, Esq.
Director, The University of Rochester
College of Arts and Science
Rochester, New York

My dear Mr. Foyles:

Responding to your letter of the 11th, our coins are exhibited in flat cases, and medals and decorations are arranged in wall cases. It is our experience that a flat case with back and glass at a slight angle rather than absolutely horizontal, is best for coins and general purposes, and a good all round color for gold, silver, copper, etc., is a black felt background. The space between the bottom of the case and the glass is about two inches; the coins show better than if at a greater distance from the glass, and in case of theft it is more difficult to scoop out through a broken glass coins so near the glass. Our coins are kept in small black boxes with a white tab at the bottom for labelling. Sometimes the coins are arranged in even rows in these boxes, and sometimes they are laid out without boxes, on the felt background with either appropriate labels for the different groups, or individual labels under each coin.

In the case of your Sicilian coins which are practically all silver, any agreeable background color could be used. If the angle of the bottom is not too great there is no need to try to fasten the coins in the case. As our coins are subject to frequent changes we simply lay them out without fastening.

For wall cases the pieces need to be fastened, or possibly laid in rows on cleats or strips of wood, but we do not advocate fastening down any expensive coin.

I hope this information will be of use. Please write me again if there is anything more you wish to know and I will do my best to answer.

Very truly yours,

Curator.